

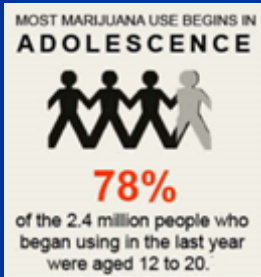


Adolescents and Marijuana

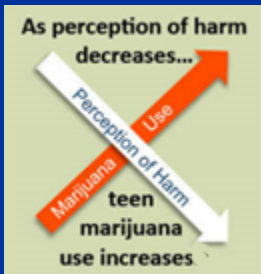
Drug Enforcement Administration New Jersey Division
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February 2020



Source: National Institutes of Health



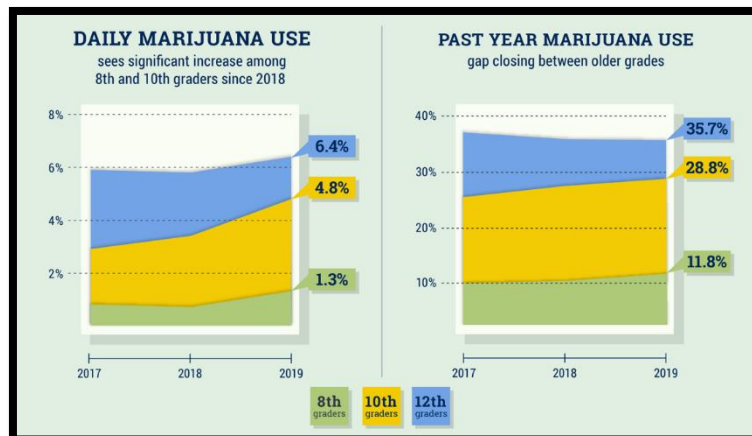
Source: National Institutes of Health



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Effects on the Brain:

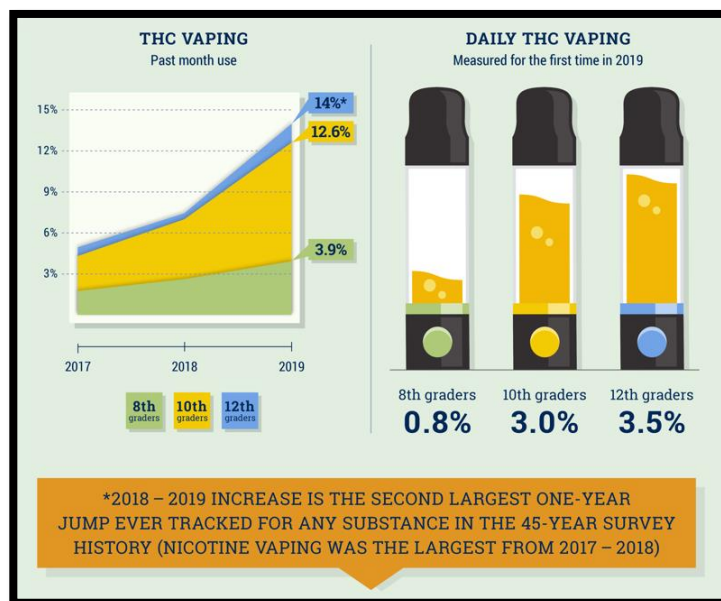
- The brain is not fully developed until age 25. (National Institutes of Health)
- Adolescent marijuana use is associated with increased prevalence of psychotic, mood, and addictive disorders and with short and possibly long-term impairments in cognition, and academic performance. (National Institutes of Health)
- Regular use of marijuana by adolescents has led to negative effects on brain development up to age 25, in areas of attention, motivation, memory, and learning. (National Institutes of Health)
- 50% of youth, 12-17 years old, are receiving substance use disorder treatment in connection to marijuana. (National Institutes of Health)
- A New Zealand study demonstrated that heavy smoking of marijuana in teens resulted in an average loss of 8 IQ points.
- Students who smoke marijuana are more likely to drop out of high school. (National Institutes of Health)
- In 2017, teens 12-17 reporting frequent use of marijuana showed a 130% greater likelihood of misusing opioids. (US Department of Health & Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
- Research shows that 1 in 6 teens who repeatedly use marijuana can become addicted. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- From 2017-2018, marijuana use increased to 63% in 8th and 10th graders and 53% in 12th graders. (Smart Approaches to Marijuana, May 2019)
- Independence Blue Cross has seen claims for marijuana use disorder increase by 180% between 2012 and 2018, including a 100% increase for patients 19 to 25 years old. (The Philadelphia Inquirer, December 23, 2019)
- States that have legalized marijuana have seen high rates of marijuana related driving fatalities, emergency room visits, expansion in the criminal market, increased crimes and juvenile offenses, and increased workplace problems. (Smart Approaches to Marijuana, May 2019)



Source: DrugAbuse.gov: Marijuana Drug Facts Dec 2019

Vaping THC:

- Vaping Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) does not replicate the unmistakable odor of marijuana that is associated with traditional smoking.
 - Any flavoring can be added to mask the THC smell
- Higher concentrations of THC create a greater exposure to marijuana's mind altering and addictive ingredient.
 - THC affects a person's memory, pleasure, movements, thinking, coordination, concentration, sensory, and time perception.
- About 4% of 12th graders say they vape THC daily. (National Institutes of Health)
- The 2014 average THC potency was 11.5% vs. 20.6% in 2016 according to Washington state statistics. (Smart Approaches to Marijuana, May 2019)
- Higher THC levels may be attributed to the increase in emergency room visits connected to marijuana. (National Institutes of Health)
- Higher THC levels may also mean a greater risk of addiction if people are regularly exposing themselves to high doses. (National Institutes of Health)
- As of February 18, 2020, a total of 2,807 people have been hospitalized or died in connection to EVALI, which is strongly linked to the addictive component in THC vaping products. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Source: DrugAbuse.gov: Marijuana Drug Facts Dec 2019

Edibles:

- Edibles take longer to digest and produce a high. Therefore, youth may consume more to feel the effects faster, leading to an increase in dangerous results. (National Institutes of Health)
- Edibles come in candy, cookies, ice cream, etc. which are attractive to youth. Edibles also mimic tobacco by coming in bright colors, packaging, etc. (Smart Approaches to Marijuana, May 2019)
- Taken in large doses, marijuana edibles can lead to anxiety attacks, paranoia and hallucinations. Several case reports involving kids who took edibles found that respiratory insufficiency can also be a major side effect in young children. (Drug Abuse, American Addiction Centers)
- Oklahoma native Caleb Fowler, 23, shot himself earlier this month after eating five times the recommended dosage of edibles. Last year, Wyoming college student Levy Thamba Pongi jumped to his death after eating a marijuana cookie. A coroner ruled that "marijuana intoxication" played a major role in the tragedy. (Drug Abuse, American Addiction Centers)
- A marijuana user continued to consume edibles when desired effects were not quick enough. The user consumed the remainder of a cookie (total THC content =60 mg) about 30-60 minutes after initial ingesting of approx. only 10 mg. A few hours after finishing the cookie, the user experienced a psychotic episode and fatally jumped off a building. In this case, consuming the



highly potent cookie provoked an acute psychotic state that lead to distortion and perception of reality leading to such erratic behavior. (Forbes, July 27, 2015)

Dabbing:

- Dab, also known as a wax or glass, is a highly concentrated form of THC.
- Dabbing is a process of vaporizing concentrated marijuana by placing it on a heated plate of metal and inhaling the vapors.
 - Can be inhaled through pipe smoking or through “dab pens”, similar to vaping.
- New trend among teens that is attracting both heavy users and new users due to the enhanced high and effects it gives off.
- According to an open source survey, about 50% of 18-24 year olds use or know someone that dabs.



In the News:

- Colorado State Patrol provided data that shows marijuana-related DUIs jumped from 684 in 2014 to 719 in 2017, a 5% increase. (NJ.com, November 10, 2018)
- A typical joint contains 25% of THC whereas a dab can contain up to 90%. (TODAY Show, February 14, 2020)
- On average, 56 drivers tested positive for THC before legalization in Washington State. Following legalization in 2012, that average increased to 130 drivers. (AAA Newsroom, January 2020)
- Car crashes related to marijuana use increased 6% in Washington, Oregon, and Colorado, compared to neighboring states that have not legalized marijuana. Similarly, police reported accidents increased 5.2% in the states that legalized marijuana. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and Highway Loss Data Institute, April 2018)
- More and more teens are regularly using marijuana by vaping rather than smoking. As a result, there has been an increase in mysterious lung illness claims by young patients across the United States. (CNBC, December 18, 2019)



Source: CNN.com



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Any questions about this product should be directed to the DEA NJD HIDTA Intelligence Group at 973-776-7070.